



State of Louisiana
Department of Environmental Quality



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M.J. "Mike" Foster
Governor

Contact Jim Friloux for more information: (225) 765-0735; e-mail: jim_f@deq.state.la.us

J. Dale Givens
Secretary

DEQ RESPONDS TO GULF RESTORATION NETWORK REPORT

The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has been asked to comment on a newly released report by the Gulf Restoration Network concerning Louisiana's process for listing and delisting water bodies under Section 303(d) of the Federal Clean Water Act. DEQ has just received a copy of their report and based upon our initial review, this department does not agree with their conclusions. On the contrary, DEQ believes that our detailed rationales provided to the public fully support our listing and delisting petitions.

In addition, DEQ furnishes complete documentation in support of listing and delisting to EPA Region 6 who must approve all 303(d) lists and any delistings proposed by DEQ. After EPA review and approval, a delisting petition is made available for a minimum 30-day public review and comment period in the Federal Register. Following the review and comment period a response is provided to the public and EPA publishes an additional notice of final action.

All of these notices are available for review on the EPA Region 6 website at <http://www.epa.gov/earth1r6/6wq/tmdl.htm> and linked to DEQ's TMDL website at <http://www.deq.state.la.us/technology/tmdl/index.htm>.

All ambient water quality data used to support the petitions for delisting is available on DEQ's public website at: <http://www.deq.state.la.us/surveillance/wqdata/wqdata.aspx>.

DEQ will provide a detailed response to the Gulf Restoration Network after a more comprehensive review of their report.
